



# Nebraska Agri-Facts

100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  
(402) 437-5541 • (402) 437-5547 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



Issue 03-2008

Released February 6, 2008

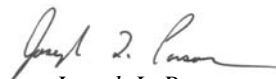
## Survey Results Included

- Cattle
- Milk Production
- Sheep & Lamb Highlights
- Poultry Highlights
- Livestock Slaughter
- Goats
- Agricultural Prices

Dear Nebraska Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusinesses:

The following narrative and tables are from recently published reports by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board. These data are direct results of information provided by Nebraska producers and agribusinesses to the surveys conducted each month by this office.

Thank you for your response to these surveys.

  
Joseph L. Parsons  
Director

## Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on hand January 1, 2008, in Nebraska totaled 6.55 million head, down 2 percent from 2007.

All cows on hand January 1, at 1.94 million head, were 3 percent below last year. The 2007 calf crop totaled 1.76 million head, down 3 percent from 2006.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all Nebraska feedlots on January 1 totaled a record 2.7 million head, unchanged from last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2008, totaled 96.7 million head, slightly below a year ago.

All cows and heifers that calved, at 41.8 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.0 million on January 1, 2007. The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2006.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 14.3 million head, up slightly from last year.

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2006-2008**

Class	Nebraska				United States <sup>1</sup>			
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
Cattle and calves	6,500	6,650	6,550	98	96,702	97,003	96,669	100
Cows and heifers that have calved	1,990	2,000	1,940	97	42,056	42,023	41,777	99
Beef cows	1,930	1,940	1,883	97	33,994	32,891	32,553	99
Milk cows	60	60	57	95	9,063	9,132	9,224	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	1,780	1,820	1,830	101	19,984	20,086	20,003	100
For beef cow replacement	295	330	300	91	5,904	5,877	5,670	96
For milk cow replacement	15	20	20	100	4,275	4,310	4,457	103
Other heifers	1,470	1,470	1,510	103	9,805	9,899	9,876	100
Steers 500 pounds and over	2,310	2,450	2,410	98	16,933	17,222	17,305	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	100	90	90	2,263	2,215	2,207	100
Calves under 500 pounds	320	280	280	100	15,465	15,456	15,378	99
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006
Calves born	1,800	1,820	1,760	97	37,575	37,519	37,361	100

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle, February 1, 2008

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance,  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2006-2008**

State	January 1 Number on Feed <sup>1</sup>			December Placements			December Marketings			December Other Disappearance <sup>2</sup>		
	2007	2008	<u>2008</u> 2007	2006	2007	<u>2007</u> 2006	2006	2007	<u>2007</u> 2006	2006	2007	<u>2007</u> 2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arizona	334	368	110	26	26	100	31	24	77	2	1	50
California	550	560	102	77	67	87	63	60	95	4	2	50
Colorado	1,100	1,100	100	135	170	126	150	135	90	5	5	100
Idaho	260	235	90	39	39	100	41	42	102	8	2	25
Iowa	520	570	110	82	71	87	59	69	117	3	2	67
Kansas	2,540	2,480	98	410	385	94	390	390	100	30	15	50
Nebraska	2,540	2,530	100	390	355	91	350	335	96	10	10	100
New Mexico	136	160	118	15	26	173	15	13	87	1	2	200
Oklahoma	350	350	100	46	44	96	42	37	88	4	2	50
South Dakota	225	230	102	50	50	100	32	33	103	3	2	67
Texas	2,870	2,960	103	370	380	103	385	420	109	15	10	67
Washington	184	164	89	24	25	104	24	28	117	1	1	100
Other States	365	390	107	50	63	126	43	59	137	2	4	200
U.S.	11,974	12,097	101	1,714	1,701	99	1,625	1,645	101	88	58	66

<sup>1</sup> Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

<sup>2</sup> Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, January 25, 2008

**Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, Nebraska, 23 States and United States, 2006-2007**

Item and Quarter	Nebraska		23 States		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Milk cows <sup>1</sup>						
July-September	61	58	8,255	8,329	9,113	9,156
October-December	61	57	8,264	8,368	9,115	9,195
	<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Milk production <sup>2</sup>						
July-September	275	260	41,082	42,550	44,710	46,119
October-December	277	263	40,952	42,450	44,611	46,045

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, January 18, 2008

**Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, January 1, 2007-2008 and  
Lamb Crop, Nebraska and United States, 2006-2007**

State	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs		Total Market Sheep & Lambs		All Sheep & Lambs		Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Nebraska	70	67	25	18	95	85	65	58	125	138	81	80
United States	4,610	4,505	1,555	1,550	6,165	6,055	3,661	3,696	111	110	4,065	4,050

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, February 1, 2008

# Challenging Times call For Powerful Facts

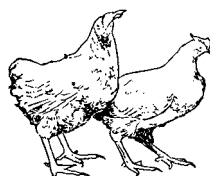
The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) provided the facts policymakers used to craft the Farm Bill.

Keep your leaders informed. If you are selected for this survey, please respond to show agriculture's economic status today.



## NASS

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Nebraska Field Office



## Poultry

During December 2007, layers in Nebraska totaled 10.2 million birds, a decrease of 11 percent from the previous year. The number of layers in the United States during December 2007 totaled 344 million, down 1 percent from December 2006.

### Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, December 2007 with Comparisons

Item	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Millions		Percent
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.5	10.2	89
United States	348.1	344.1	99
Table Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	267	244	91
United States	6,683	6,633	99
Chickens Hatched			
United States			
Egg-type	33.2	35.5	107
Broiler	796.5	823.3	103
Hatched thru December			
United States			
Egg-type	426.1	445.4	105
Broiler	9,427.6	9,593.8	102

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, January 22, 2008

## What Does ARMS Tell Us?

Several examples of the facts revealed in ARMS demonstrate the broad range of information it generates. The data also can be used to demonstrate the diversity within the farm sector, by farm size, geographic region, household characteristics, and commodities produced.

- **Production expenses:** ARMS collects data on the costs of fertilizer, fuel, rent, seed, labor, custom applications, pesticides, and other production inputs for selected crops. U.S. farm cash production expenses totalled \$235 billion in 2006, up 5.4 percent from 2005. Livestock and poultry costs were among the largest contributors to the increase.
- **Farm business values:** Over 90% of reporting farm businesses in 2006 had healthy debt-to-asset ratios of less than 30 percent.
- **Contracting:** Marketing and production contracts (advance agreements) between farmers and commodity buyers accounted for 41 percent of the value of U.S. agriculture production in 2005, up from 38 percent in 2004.
- **Farm household income sources:** Farm households, like many other households, draw livelihoods from a variety of work, savings, and investments. The relative importance of the different components of farm household income varies by farm type, but off-farm income is most important for a majority of farm households.

## Commercial Livestock Slaughter

December 2007 output and changes from last year and last month are shown below. December 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays. December 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

### Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, December 2007 with Comparisons

Item	Total <sup>1</sup>	Dec. 2007 percent of	
		Dec. 2006	Nov. 2007
Nebraska	1,000 Head		
Cattle, head	545.4	104	93
Hogs, head	651.1	108	97
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	579.5	104	93
United States			
Cattle, head	2,645.3	101	93
Calves, head	61.0	89	104
Hogs, head	9,691.3	109	96
Sheep & Lambs, head	229.1	101	97
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	4,058.1	105	94

<sup>1</sup> Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, January 25, 2008

**Goats: Number by Class,  
Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2007- 2008**

Class	Nebraska		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>
Angora Goats	1,300	1,500	238,000	210,000
Milk Goats	3,000	2,500	294,000	305,000
Meat and Other Goats	20,000	22,000	2,402,000	2,500,000
Total Goats	24,300	26,000	2,934,000	3,015,000

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, February 1, 2008

**Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary January 2008 with Comparisons**

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Jan 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Jan 15, 2008	Jan 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Jan 15, 2008	% of Parity	Parity Price <sup>2</sup>
		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	4.54	8.82	8.85	4.53	7.74	8.55	71	12.00
Corn	Bushel	3.04	3.82	4.25	3.05	3.76	4.28	57	7.56
Oats	Bushel	<sup>3</sup>	2.92	2.95	2.20	2.69	2.71	55	4.91
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	5.98	6.81	7.80	6.31	6.93	8.23	61	13.50
Soybeans	Bushel	6.21	10.30	11.20	6.37	10.00	11.00	59	18.70
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	92.00	87.00	89.00	109.00	133.00	129.00		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	93.00	89.00	90.00	112.00	136.00	135.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	82.00	72.00	78.00	104.00	126.00	118.00		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	21.90	29.90	30.70	22.70	27.00	28.40	47	60.80
Hogs	Cwt	44.60	41.10	38.90	42.70	39.60	36.50	29	125.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	44.90	41.50	39.20	43.40	40.40	37.30		
Sows	Cwt	31.50	22.50	23.40	29.80	21.00	20.30		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	89.30	95.00	95.40	84.30	88.90	89.40	39	229.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.70	96.50	96.80	89.80	95.10	95.20		
Cows	Cwt	44.70	47.90	48.90	44.40	44.90	46.20		
Calves	Cwt	115.00	123.00	120.00	115.00	118.00	116.00	35	332.00
Sheep	Cwt	32.00	33.70		37.10	29.70			105.00
Lambs	Cwt	84.50	91.80		96.50	98.50			260.00

<sup>1</sup> Entire month average except hay.

<sup>2</sup> Parity price based on data for January 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, January 31, 2008

PRESORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA PERMIT NO. G-38

USDA NASS  
Nebraska Field Office  
P.O. Box 81069  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED